

PRINCE ALBERT

NATIONAL PARK
CANADA



FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest which have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment." Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The discovery of hot mineral springs bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 26 separate areas totalling more than 28,000 square miles.

While a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, others contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Still others have been developed for the greater convenience of park visitors to view the magnificent scenery and to relax in their enjoyment of such an inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girl hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirk, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Service to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Service is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia to Fort Prince of Wales on Hudson Bay, nine such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

Also of historical significance was the act of linking two great national parks in Alberta and Montana to be known as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Commemorating the peace which has existed for over 130 years between adjoining nations, this unspoiled area of natural beauty is symbolic of the goodwill engendered by these two peoples.

A new national park has been established in New Brunswick. Title to an area of nearly 80 square miles, mainly in Albert County, has been provided by the Provincial Government. The park lies between the Goose and Upper Salmon (Alma) Rivers and extends northward from the Bay of Fundy for a distance of about nine miles.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset — undiminished by use — for all future generations.

VISITORS' GUIDE

Location and Description

Prince Albert National Park, situated in the central part of Saskatchewan, contains an area of 1,498 square miles and is an outstanding example of the lake and woodland country which lies north of the great agricultural prairies. The general elevation of the park is about 1,800 feet above sea-level. It straddles the height of land between the great watershed areas of the Churchill and Saskatchewan Rivers, but nearly all the larger lakes of the park drain northward into the Churchill. Prince Albert Park was established in 1927.

An outstanding feature of the park is its remarkable lake system. Hundreds of lakes, varying in size from dry rock basins to bodies of water twenty miles long, dot the landscape. White sand beaches line the shores of many of these crystal lakes, which reflect the surrounding forests. Under normal water conditions these lakes form connected waterways, and provide exceptional opportunities for canoe and boat trips. The largest and best known are Rebert, Waskesiu, Kingama, Crega, Lovellie, Wassagam, Tiblaka, Namskus and Hanging Heart Lakes.

The townsite of Waskesiu is situated at the eastern end of Lake Waskesiu and is a summer resort only. It contains all the services customarily found in a modern summer community and is the centre of park activity. The post office, located in the Arcade Stores, is open daily except Sunday. Long distance telephone connection may be made at the Pleasant Inn. The Museum Building houses an interesting collection of wildlife species native to the area. A new Medical Centre, which is also the residence of the townsite medical practitioner, has recently been constructed.

At the western end of the townsite is the residential section of Prospect Point containing a number of attractive summer homes. Additional summer cottages are located in the Lakerview sub-division east of the public camp-grounds facing the main beach.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

The park is reached over the main provincial highway system which connects with the park highways extending from the southern and eastern boundaries. The main approach is from the City of Prince Albert to the southeast corner of the park, a distance of 36 miles. The park headquarters at Waskesiu are 23 miles farther north. Approach may also be made over a provincial road from Shellbrook, connecting with the Rabbit-Meridian road at the southwest corner of the park.

The nearest railway station is located in Prince Albert, which is served by lines of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway systems. A bus service is operated daily from Prince Albert to Waskesiu, and return. Prince Albert National Park may also be reached by air. The park lies along the route of the Saskatchewan Government Airways from Prince Albert to Lac La Poudre, via Montreal Lake. Connections with the Trans-Canada Airlines may be made at Regina by the Canadian Pacific Air Lines from Prince Albert. A seaplane anchorage has been established in the park at Lake Waskesiu, and is available to commercial firms as well as to aircraft engaged in forest patrols.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARK ADMINISTRATION

A resident superintendent is in charge of the administration of Prince Albert National Park. The Administration Building is situated in the park townsite of Waskesiu and contains an information bureau where information concerning accommodation, recreation, and boat trips, as well as literature and detailed maps of the parks, may be obtained. The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Registration and Motor Licences

All motorists entering the park must register and secure transient motor licences. Licences for motor vehicles not used for commercial purposes are issued on the following basis:

1. Single trip licence, good for a period not exceeding 30 days, provided the automobile is not taken out of the park during such period: Automobile, 25 cents; auto with trailer attached, 50 cents.
2. Licence good for the entire season, which also will be honoured in Riding Mountain, Elk Island, Waterton Lakes, and Point Pelee National Parks: Automobile, \$1; auto with trailer attached, \$2.
3. Special licence good for the entire season which also will be honoured in all national parks where transient motor licences are required: Automobile, \$3; auto with trailer attached, \$3.

Special licences may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

Accommodation

Name	Capacity	Daily Rates	
		Single	Double
Lakewood Hotel	27 rooms	\$2.50-\$3.00 (Dining Room Service)	\$3.50 up (E)
Pleasant Inn	13 rooms	\$2.50 (Dining Room Service)	\$3.50 (E)
Red Deer Chalet	13 rooms	\$2.50	\$3.50 (E)
Lakeshore Apartments	5 suites	\$3.00 to \$4.50 per suite (E)	
Waskesiu Lodge	10 rooms	\$2.00-\$2.50 (Dining Room Service)	\$3.00-\$3.50 (E)
Idylodge Apartments	7 suites	\$4.50 to \$7.00 per suite (E)	
Hillcrest Cabins Ltd.	41 cabins	\$2.50 to \$7.00 per cabin (E)	
Waskesiu Bungalow Cabins	84 cabins	\$2.50 to \$4.00 per cabin (E)	
Narrows Bungalow Cabins	12 cabins	\$3.00 to \$3.50 per cabin (E)	

(E) Indicates European Plan (without meals)

NOTE: The above is summer accommodation only. Rates quoted are the lowest available but may be subject to minor revision from time to time.

Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment, it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance. Lists of approved accommodation and agencies making reservations can be supplied upon request by the Parks Information Bureau at Waskesiu.

Key to Map of National Parks

1. Mount Banffshire
2. Glacier
3. Yoho
4. Kootenay
5. Jasper
6. Banff
7. Watkins Lakes
8. Elk Island
9. Wood Buffalo
10. Prince Albert
11. Riding Mountain
12. Fort Prince of Wales
13. Fort Morden
14. Point Pelee
15. Georgian Bay Islands
16. St. Lawrence Islands
17. Port Wellington
18. Port Charley
19. Port Lorne
20. New Brunswick
21. Fort Beauséjour
22. Prince Edward Island
23. Port Royal
24. Port Anne
25. Province of Louisiana
26. Cape Breton Highlands



With an introduction by **NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE**

LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

OTTAWA, CANADA

CAMPING

The Government camp-ground in Wabeseta townsite covers an area of 27 acres. It is sub-divided into blocks, each containing a kitchen shelter equipped with camp-stove, tables, and benches. The camp-ground has running water, electricity, a community building, and a refrigerator building with individual lockers for the storage of perishable supplies.

Camp-sites, equipped with kitchen shelters, tables, and benches, will also be found at Halfett, Hanging Heart, Green, Kingsmere and Namahoe Lakes, and at Pelington Beach and the Narrows on Wabeseta Lake.

The fees for camping are \$1 for ordinary tents for each period of two weeks or less. Camping permits for cabin tents, or automobile trailers are issued at the rate of 50 cents a night up to two nights, and \$2 for any period over two nights up to two weeks. Permits may be obtained from the camp attendant or from the Park Superintendent's office.

Facilities are provided in the park for youth camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts.

RECREATION

Bathing and Swimming—The main beach at Wabeseta is a bathers' paradise. Here two large buildings with dressing rooms have been constructed. A diving platform and tower, conforming to Olympic regulations, are added attractions. There are other fine beaches along Lake Wabeseta, and at Kingsmere and Green Lakes.

Boating and Canoeing—Boat libraries from which canoes, row-boats, and outboard motors may be rented are operated in the townsite and at the Narrows, Wabeseta Lake, and Hanging Heart Lakes. Several large motor launches make daily trips up Lake Wabeseta. Boat trips are made periodically from Wabeseta to Kingsmere Lake.

The extensive network of lakes and narrows in the area makes it possible to travel great distances by canoe and motorboat.

Canoe Trips—A circuit of the northern part of the park may be made by water, passing through nearly a score of lakes en route. The trip is made from east to west starting from the main dock at Wabeseta. The first stage is taken west of Lake Wabeseta, through the first and second narrows to the mouth of Kingsmere River. When water conditions are normal, this stream unites Kingsmere Lake with Lake Wabeseta and may be paddled for almost half its length. A light railway equipped with hand truck facilitates the portage over the un navigable stretch. If low water conditions prevail, a one-mile portage is necessary to reach Kingsmere Lake.

North of Kingsmere Lake lies Ajowoon, Lone Island, Little Beaver, Sanctuary, and Lavalles Lakes. Portages of several hundred yards connect Ajowoon and Lone Island Lakes with Kingsmere Lake. Ajowoon Lake is a beautiful little body of water, surrounded by heavily-wooded country.

Lavalles Lake is reached by two long portages of three miles each from Sanctuary Lake. The return from Lavalles Lake to Lake Wabeseta may be made by the same route, or

an alternate route may be followed to Wabano, Crooked, Wassagan, Tibaka, Crech, and Hanging Heart Lakes, which are connected by portages.

Crech Lake, the largest in the park, is approximately 11 miles long and 8 miles wide. Dotted with a number of high rocky islands it is connected with Hanging Heart Lake by a small strait opening from the southwestern end.

Fishing—The larger lakes in the park offer excellent sport for the angler. Visitors can obtain, at the Park Information Bureau, the publication entitled "Angler's Guide to Prince Albert National Park" containing up-to-date information about the most popular fishing places, and a list of the species to be caught. The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is greatly appreciated.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time visitors are requested to consult park officers regarding open waters, season's catch limits, and the securing of fishing licences.

Golf—The park golf course, located on the rolling slopes east of Prospect Point, has a picturesque setting. It is an 18-hole championship course that will test the skill of the keenest golfer. The green fee is \$1.00 with comparable rates for daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal periods.

Hiking and Riding—Several forest trails in the vicinity of Wabano, including some old Indian trails, are delightful for hiking and riding. Saddle horses may be hired locally. Altogether there are 236 miles of trails in the park, as well as more than 200 miles of secondary and fire roads.

Motoring—Many interesting motor drives over the park's 68 miles of highways are open to visitors. One of the most outstanding shorter drives is along the south shore of Wabano Lake leading to the Narrows, a distance of 15 miles. Another is along the northern shore of the same lake to Hanging Heart Lake, 8 miles distant.

Playing Fields—A children's playground and a large recreation field equipped with baseball and softball diamonds are located in the townsite.

Tennis—Eight tennis courts are available for public use free of charge.

CONSERVATION

Prince Albert National Park is playing an increasingly important role in conservation in Western Canada. With the growth and extension of settlement on the Prairies many adverse factors have affected wildlife. The development of agriculture, the clearing of wooded areas, damage to forests from fire, the presence of more hunters with modern firearms, and rapid transportation—all have contributed to the destruction of certain wildlife species, particularly game and fur-bearing animals.

The park is a natural habitat for wildlife, and in earlier times it provided one of the richest fields for the fur trade. It was once the hunting grounds of the Cree Indians, and perhaps the Chipewyans from the northwest. The beaver was the chief fur-bearer in the area, and colonies of these industrious animals are much in evidence along many of the lakes and streams in the park. It was here that Grey Owl, the noted naturalist and writer, spent the last years of his colourful life, and where he received much of the inspiration for some of his most popular nature stories. He achieved a remarkable degree

of companionship with the beaver in the park and had great admiration and respect for his little "talking brothers" as he called them. He occupied a cabin on the shores of Arrowan Lake and is buried not far from this spot. In his efforts to arouse public interest in wildlife protection Grey Owl uncovered an unsuspected talent for writing. His books, lectures, and films have done much to stimulate greater interest in conservation.

WILDLIFE PROTECTED

As the chief purpose of Canada's National Parks require that they be maintained in their natural state, all wildlife within their boundaries is carefully protected. For this reason hunting and the possession of firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds of their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission.

FAUNA AND FLORA

Animals and Birds—Among the big game species found in the park are moose, elk, white-tailed (Virginia) or "red" deer, mule deer, woodland caribou, and black bear. Fur-bearing animals such as beaver, mink, and muskrat are numerous and wolves and coyotes are also seen in the park and vicinity.

Interesting species of bird life are the white pelicans and double-crested cormorants. One of the largest rookeries of American white pelicans in Canada is located on several small rocky islands in Lavallee Lake; cormorants are also found there in large numbers. Ducks, loons, wild geese, and other migratory birds find shelter on the many lakes in the park. Sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge are also numerous.

Trees and Flowers—The forests of the park include many well known species native to the region. Among these are jack pine, white spruce, black spruce, white poplar (trembling aspen), black poplar (balsam poplar), white birch, balsam fir, and tamarack. Many varieties of shrubs are found, and wild flowers are abundant in the spring and early summer months.

FIRE PREVENTION

Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Smoking materials and camp-fires should be completely extinguished. Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose unless a special permit is obtained from the Superintendent. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the park regulations, and secure particulars concerning suitable camp-sites and other related information. Parties making overnight or extended trips into park areas must register with a park warden or at the superintendent's office.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest park warden. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be replaced in a hundred years. Forest fires are among the greatest destroyers of the parks. It is virtually impossible to protect these national playgrounds without the close and constant co-operation of all who frequent them.

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES
LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH
1981

MAP OF
**PRINCE ALBERT
NATIONAL PARK**
SASKATCHEWAN

Scale of Miles



REFERENCE

- Park Boundary ———
- Roads ———
- Secondary Roads ———
- Trails or Portages ———
- Cables or Chutes ———
- Camp-grounds ———
- Priority Towns ———
- Point Cabin ———
- Warren's Cabin ———

